(b) The export of iron ore is necessitated due to the ore being in surplus quantity after meeting the demand of domestic industry; to avoid environmental hazards resulting from accumulated surplus iron ore; and to promote mining activity generating more employment. Likewise, only surplus chrome ore and manganese ore are allowed to be exported with quantitative cap after ascertaining the requirements of the domestic industry.

(c) The iron ore resources are available for exports even after meeting the demand of domestic industry. Hence, there is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Provision for data protection

3000. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is under pressure from MNCs to provide for data protection; and

(b) if so, what are the details and views of various Government Departments for the grant of data protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

India a Knowledge hub

3001. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how Government proposes to give concrete shape to the statement made by the Commerce Minister that" by 2035 India's population is to stablise at about 1.5 billion, the country would achieve 100 per cent literacy and that it would become a knowledge hub, serving future workers through a convergence of technologies".

(b) what are the broad strategies being thought of, with a time-frame in this regard;and

(c) will any monitoring mechanism be evolved for periodic due diligence test to enable corrective action being taken to meet the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SRHI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) In course of the Keynote Address delivered at the 30th Anniversary of the US-India Business Council in Washington D.C on 1st June, 2005, the Commerce Minister said:

'By 2035 I think that India's population would have stabilized at about one-and-a-half billion. We will certainly have achieved 100% literacy and I am confident that we would have provided a standard of living for our people comparable at least to what developed countries enjoy today. Our focus then will no longer be so much on 'fast' growth but rather on sustaining the fabric that enables us to remain a' free market democracy'.'

It was not so much a statement of policy made by the Commerce Minister, as an expression of his vision of what India would be 30 year hence (which was the topic of the Address). Therefore the question of strategies, time frame or monitoring mechanism do not arise.

Labour Laws by States to attract FDI

†3002. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are considering any proposal for providing the right for formulating separate labour law to the State Government so that investment particularly Foreign Direct Investment can be attracted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The Government is not considering any proposal for providing the right for formulating separate labour laws to the State Government to attract investment. As the subject 'Labour' figures in the Concurrent List, the State Government

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.